

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:5607.
2. (original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. (original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. (original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835, or its complement, wherein said nucleic acid encodes an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment of at least twenty amino acid residues.
6. (original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. (original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. (original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. (previously presented) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least forty contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835 or its complement.

10. (previously presented) An isolated nucleotide acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least one hundred nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835 or its complement.
- 11-31. Cancelled.
32. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence is hybridizable under high stringency conditions to SEQ ID NO:1835 or its complement.